

NYC Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting 2021 - Captions

00:00

Alright. Good morning, everyone.

00:01

Thank you for joining the annual Local Emergency planning

00:04

committee meeting.

00:06

I just wanted to go through a few housekeeping items

00:09

before we begin.

00:11

Just please be aware that this meeting is being recorded

00:15

and the recording can be found on New York City

00:18

Emergency Management webpage.

00:23

The meeting will actually have closed captions available.

00:27

The captions can be accessed by clicking on the three dots

00:31

found in the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

00:36

If you happen to be using the web link itself,

00:40

there are instances where the captions may appear

00:43

on a separate window.

00:44

If this is an issue,

00:47

please try opening up the application itself.

00:52

You will be automatically placed on mute

00:54

at the beginning of the meeting.

00:56

So if you have a question,

00:58

please unmute yourself prior to speaking.

01:04

Again, because we have a closed captionist,

01:06

please speak slowly and clearly

01:10

and please reserve your questions

01:12

towards the end of the meeting.

01:16

All right, those are all the housekeeping items.

01:19

At this time,

01:20

I would actually like to pass the meeting

01:22

to New York City Emergency Management,

01:24

Deputy Commissioner for response, John Grimm,

01:27

to welcome the new chair of the LEPC

01:30

as well as everyone else who has joined this meeting.

01:34

Thank you very much.

01:36

- Thank you, Rob.

01:37

And thank you to everyone for joining today.

01:40

I know that everyone has very busy schedules.

01:42

We all have a lot going on.

01:44

So I do really appreciate everyone taking their time

01:47

to join us today for the meeting.

01:49

It's very important that we continue this meeting

01:52

and have this time where we can come together

01:54

and discuss these issues.

01:56

And also I'd like to thank deputy commissioner Cosgrove

01:59

for taking this on.

02:01

We appreciate your leadership and chairing this meeting

02:05

by chairing the committee.

02:06

So thank you very much for being willing to do that.

02:09

And I'd like to go ahead

02:11

and turn the meeting over to our chair

02:12

and Deputy commissioner Cosgrove.

02:14

Thank you.

02:15

- Good morning. Thank you very much, John.

02:18

First of all,

02:19

I'd like to introduce myself to everybody depending

02:23

those I don't know.

02:24

My name is deputy commissioner, John Cosgrove.

02:27

I'm the deputy commissioner of police and security

02:30

here at the department of environmental protection.

02:32

I started in this role back in March

02:36

after following a lengthy run by deputy commissioner,

02:39

McBride Here.

02:40

So it's an honor to have this position

02:44

and as well an honor to be the chair here at this meeting,

02:48

this committee meeting.

02:50

So before I get going with the introductions,

02:52

I'd like to go around with the introductory paragraph.

02:55

I'd like to go around the room and see

02:57

who else we might have in attendance.

03:06

- Sure. My name is Robert Wilson.

03:08

I'm deputy director of legal affairs at New York City

03:12

Emergency Management and act as the secretary

03:15

for the LEPC

03:19

- Thank you Rob.

03:22

- I'm Harry Meyer.

03:23

I'm the director for emergency response

03:25

and technical assessment at the DEP.

03:29

- My name is Joanne Nurse,

03:31

I'm the deputy director for emergency response

03:33

and technical assessment at DEP.

03:37

- Safaa Yacoub New York City DEP Right-to-Know program.

03:48

- Anyone else? We have anybody calling in the morning.

03:51

- Hey, good morning.

03:52

- Good morning Drew Fried from State Health Department.

03:58

- Good morning, Ira Foreman

03:59

Port Authority emergency management.

04:02

- Good morning

04:06

- Good morning, Sonja Orgias

04:08

Director of legal affairs in New York City Emergency Management

04:12

- Good morning.

04:20

- Captain Vincent Cirino.

04:21

I'm the executive officer for FDNY Hazmat Operations.

04:26

- Good morning, Vin.

04:27

-Good morning, Henry Glen assistant chief of facilities,

04:32

New York City department of sanitation.

04:35

- Good morning.

04:42

- All right.

04:43

For the benefit of anybody else who might be on the line,

04:47

this is the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting

04:49

held under federal regulation,

04:53

under the Local Emergency Planning Committees

04:56

and the community right to know act EPCRA

05:00

must develop a response plan to review the plan

05:03

at least annually and provide information

05:06

about chemicals in the community to citizens.

05:08

The plans are developed with LEPCs,

05:11

with stakeholder participation.

05:14

The LEPC membership must include elected state

05:19

and local officials, police, fire, and defense officials,

05:22

public health professionals, environmental transportation

05:26

and hospital officials, facility representatives

05:28

and representatives from community groups and media.

05:32

The New York City community Right-to-Know Program,

05:35

also known as local law 26 of 1988,

05:38

requires the City to effectively regulate

05:40

the storage, use and handling of hazardous substances.

05:44

As part of the law,

05:45

we oversee the use and storage of hazardous substances

05:48

that pose a threat to public health and environment,

05:51

New York City through its rights and health program.

05:55

At this point, I'd like to

05:58

have the minutes from the last meeting introduced

06:03

by Emergency Management.

06:06

- Thank you, commissioner.

06:09

The 2020 Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting

06:13

was held on September 22nd, 2020.

06:18

The meeting began with DEP's hazard material operation

06:24

DEP's hazardous materials operations were impacted

06:26

during the height of COVID in March and April.

06:29

This was due to locations being closed

06:32

and staff within the Right-to-Know division,

06:34

moving to a teleworking posture.

06:36

However, hazardous material responses

06:40

were not impacted as emergency responders

06:43

were reporting to work.

06:45

Over the last several months,

06:46

operations have been restored

06:48

as businesses have begin to reopen

06:51

and they are seeing an increase in the number of calls.

06:57

After the hazardous material operations were discussed,

06:59

the meetings from the 2019 LEPC were read.

07:05

Moving on the hazardous substance advisory board meeting

07:08

was made a part of the September 22nd LEPC meeting.

07:14

The hazardous substance advisory board

07:16

is a subset of the LEPC and meets quarterly.

07:19

The June 9th, 2020 HSAB meeting minutes were as follows.

07:28

Regarding the Right-to-Know Program, changes to the program.

07:32

There were changes to the program due to COVID-19,

07:35

which were that RTK inspections were suspended in March.

07:39

All of the staff were working remotely

07:41

and completing technical review

07:43

of the 2019 tier two summaries.

07:47

95% of the 11,000 plus tier two submissions

07:50

have been reviewed

07:51

and inspections would resume when it's safe to do so.

07:55

With respect to the tier two and risk management

07:58

plan submissions for the 2020 calendar year,

08:02

11,252 tier two submissions were received.

08:07

Of the 11,252 submissions, 1028 were from new facilities.

08:14

10,794 facilities submissions were submitted online

08:20

and 458 were submitted via hard copy.

08:24

With regards to risk management plans,

08:27

374 risk management plans were on file as of May 31st, 2020.

08:32

An additional 48 facilities are required to submit RMPs.

08:37

DEP received 139 risk management plan affidavit letters

08:43

and DEP received 45 updated RMPs.

08:47

Regarding inspections,

08:49

7,046 inspections were performed during fiscal year 2020.

08:54

88 facilities were exempt from filing,

08:58

332 facilities went out of business

09:01

and 341 facilities were issued a notice of violation.

09:07

Regarding the emergency response unit,

09:10

data responders are considered essential employees

09:13

and have been reporting to work on a 24/7 basis.

09:19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

09:22

there was a 43% to 45% reduction

09:26

in the number of calls received.

09:28

Generally between 300 and 400 calls are received each month.

09:33

This reduction is likely attributed to

09:35

fewer people going outside that could potentially report

09:38

hazardous conditions.

09:40

However, it was noted that there has been an increase

09:44

in the number of calls over the past two weeks.

09:48

Currently, there are no special event deployments

09:51

that are scheduled.

09:52

New York City Fire Department stated that

09:54

the 4th of July fireworks display may be held virtually

09:57

and the United Nations event would likely be canceled.

10:02

An inquiry was raised by NYCEM regarding special events

10:05

and large gatherings of protestors.

10:07

In response, it was explained that

10:09

the difference between the two was that

10:11

protests are unplanned and unannounced

10:14

and do not require permits

10:16

while special event gatherings do.

10:19

NYCEM also inquired as to whether FDNY and DEP

10:23

had sufficient PPE.

10:24

In response, FDNY stated that there were no shortage of PPE

10:29

and DEP stated that 80% of staff were teleworking

10:32

and essential employees had the proper PPE.

10:35

That concludes the notes for the quarterly HSAB meeting

10:41

that was part of that LEPC meeting.

10:44

The update on tier two submissions was also discussed by DEP.

10:52

DEP had received 11,439 tier two submissions.

10:57

1094 submissions were from new facilities

11:00

and were added to the database.

11:02

10,963 submissions were submitted online

11:07

474 were submitted via hard copy.

11:11

95.8% of the facilities submitted online.

11:15

4.2% of the facilities were submitted via hard copy.

11:21

It is easier for DURDA to review submissions

11:24

that are received online.

11:25

That is why they have encouraged facilities to file online.

11:29

DEP holds workshops facilities,

11:32

but have been unable to do so for the last several months

11:35

due to COVID.

11:37

Regarding risk management plans,

11:39

375 risk management plans are on file as of June 3rd, 2019.

11:45

19 new RMPs were received.

11:48

An additional 44 facilities are required to submit RMPs.

11:52

57 facilities reported updates to their plans.

11:56

130 affidavits had been received indicating

11:59

that there were no changes to their plans.

12:02

And 20 inspections were completed for RMPs.

12:07

Regarding the inspections,

12:08

7,173 inspections were performed during fiscal year 2020.

12:14

90 facilities were exempt from filing,

12:17

211 facilities went out of business

12:19

and 341 facilities were found in violation of the law.

12:25

Regarding updates on emergency response,

12:28

DEP noted that responses were down around 45% due to COVID.

12:32

However, now that facilities are beginning to reopen

12:34

the numbers have gone up and stabilized.

12:37

There was a 10% change from this year

12:39

as compared to last year.

12:41

3,531 last year to 3,192 this year. 9.6%.

12:49

DEP expected this pattern to continue

12:52

and close out the year back at the normal range.

12:56

Last year's special event deployment was New Year's Eve.

12:59

All other special events were canceled due to COVID.

13:02

And if any events did take place, they were virtual,

13:05

meaning that there were no spectators.

13:08

This week, the UN generals--

13:12

the week the LEPC meeting was held

13:14

was the UN General Assembly

13:15

and from what is understood,

13:16

there are many virtual meetings taking place.

13:19

Thanksgiving day parade,

13:20

like the 4th of July event will take place virtually.

13:23

This will likely continue to the end of the year.

13:26

It was noted that regarding deployments to special events,

13:29

DEP does not deploy unilaterally.

13:31

They are part of the hazardous materials branch of CIMS.

13:35

So if the hazardous materials branch is called upon

13:38

for service for a special event,

13:40

that is when they would be deployed.

13:43

And finally,

13:44

the notable response also provided by DEP,

13:47

DEP was notified by the NYPD that an individual was burnt

13:51

with an unknown chemical.

13:53

The location was entered

13:54

where numerous chemicals were discovered

13:57

and with the assistance of DEP,

13:59

they identified the substances

14:01

and conducted a preliminary analysis.

14:03

The chemical was identified

14:05

and was then handed over to NYPD

14:11

with their investigations in narcotics unit.

14:13

The job took several days and was being--

14:19

was transported safely for further analysis.

14:25

That ends the call notes from the 2020--

14:28

the notes from the 2020 LEPC meeting.

14:32

Those notes will be uploaded to

14:34

the New York City Emergency Management webpage.

14:39

- Thank you Rob.

14:42

I think the next item on our agenda is

14:45

we are going to embed the hazardous substance

14:49

advisory board meeting for a current quarter

14:53

And for that,

14:54

I turn the hosting over to Harry Meyer.

15:00

- Thank you commissioner.

15:02

As the commissioner said,

15:04

we are now holding the second meeting of the year

15:07

as part of the LEPC.

15:10

There are several items we're going to discuss,

15:12

but we'll first begin by reading the minutes

15:15

of the most recent meeting that was held on March 9th.

15:19

Deputy director Nurse will be doing that. Joanne.

15:26

- Good morning, everyone.

15:27

And thanks for joining us at our LEPC meeting today.

15:32

Due to the pandemic,

15:34

no in-person workshops were held this year.

15:36

Instead any facility needing assistance

15:39

with submitting their G2 report was assisted virtually

15:43

by our technical review staff.

15:46

I'll now read the minutes for the first quarter

15:48

of the advisory board meeting, which as Mr. Meyer said,

15:52

was held on March 9th of this year.

15:57

The meeting began with Mr. Meyer opening

15:59

and welcoming participants

16:01

to our first Hazardous Substance Advisory Board meeting.

16:05

He explained that from the offset of the pandemic

16:09

RTK inspections were suspended and did not resume

16:12

until the pause was lifted in July.

16:15

During that time RTK inspectors were tasked

16:18

with reviewing the tier two submissions

16:21

that the program received from the 2019 reporting year.

16:25

Director Meyer expressed that the staff was highly efficient

16:29

in completing technical reviews via telework

16:32

and was able to complete the reviews

16:34

for approximately 95% of the database.

16:38

Dr. Meyer also noted

16:40

that the right-to-know inspectors are simultaneously

16:42

completing inspections and technical reviews

16:45

and will provide an update on the numbers

16:49

at the next meeting.

16:52

In regards to the matrix Ms. Safaa Yacoub reviewed

16:56

the matrix for the tier two submissions

16:59

received for the 2020 reporting year.

17:02

She stated that of March 9th,

17:06

the Right-to-Know Program received 10,330 submissions.

17:12

She also stated that of these submissions, 10,238,

17:18

were submitted online and 92 facilities

17:21

submitted hard copy reports.

17:24

Mrs. Yacoub stated that 244 submissions

17:28

were received from new facilities.

17:30

The Right-to-Know Program currently has 369 risk management

17:34

plans on file

17:36

and an additional 17 facilities are required

17:39

to submit their RMPs.

17:42

The Right-to-Know Program has received five

17:44

RMPs affidavit letters indicating that

17:47

there were no changes and eight updates

17:50

to existing risk management plans.

17:53

Ms. Yacoub was reporting that

17:55

there are currently 55 risk management plans under review

17:59

and nine facilities have been inspected.

18:02

In regards to the inspection program,

18:05

5,613 inspections were done

18:11

during the 2021 fiscal year

18:14

and of these 67 facilities were exempt from filing,

18:18

295 are out of business

18:21

and 45 facilities were issued notices of violations

18:25

for noncompliance with the right-to-know law and regulation.

18:30

In regards to the emergency response unit,

18:32

Mr. Meyer explained that the pandemic has had an impact

18:36

on the number of response requests made to the unit.

18:40

He explained that looking at a year over year analysis

18:44

of pre-COVID versus COVID, calculated from July 2019

18:49

to February 2020, DURDA received 2,509 requests.

18:57

He also noted that in the same period,

19:01

July, 2020 through February, 2021,

19:05

DURDA received 1,886 requests,

19:09

which is a reduction of 24%.

19:13

Director Meyer also noted that when looking at

19:16

all the categories where responses are requested,

19:19

it is interesting to note that pre-COVID versus during COVID

19:24

the request still follow the same pattern

19:27

with chemical orders,

19:28

petroleum spills, chemical spills, abandoned chemicals

19:33

and natural gas leaks taking that order year over year.

19:37

Director Meyer also noted that the only increase

19:40

was in the indoor air carbon monoxide category,

19:44

which went up by 2.5 times.

19:47

And that makes sense as more people are working from home.

19:52

Dr. Meyer announced that the next meeting

19:53

there will be held on June 15th

19:56

and will likely be combined with the Local Emergency

19:59

Planning Committee.

20:02

Dr. Meyer adds if anyone had any questions,

20:05

Ms. Elena Filoni from Department of Health

20:09

asked if DURDA was contemplating having equipment links

20:12

with chemical and rad responder.

20:15

And that was all the questions from the floor,

20:18

that to my account,

20:19

thank everyone for participating and joining the meeting

20:22

and the meeting was concluded.

20:24

Thank you.

20:27

- Thank you, Joanne.

20:30

- Thank you, Joanne.

20:31

Now we will have Mrs. Yacoub present the

20:35

2020 tier two metrics.

20:38

- Good morning, everyone.

20:40

As of May 31st, 2021,

20:45

Right-to-Know received 11,175 tier two submission.

20:51

Out of this 11,175 submission,

20:56

335 new facility added to the database

21:01

and submitted 2020 tier two report.

21:05

A total of 10,787 facility submitted online

21:12

and 388 facility submitted hard copy report.

21:17

96.5% submit online tier two report.

21:21

3.5% facility submitted hard-copy report.

21:27

For the risk management plan,

21:29

the Right-to-Know Program currently has 370 rescue measure

21:34

plan on fire and additional of 44 facility are required

21:40

to submit the RMP report.

21:42

The Right-to-Know receive 64 update

21:46

to the existing risk management plan

21:49

and 114 affidavit letter indicated that

21:54

there is no change on their existing

21:56

risk management plan report.

21:59

There are 51 risk management plan report under review

22:03

and 11 facility have been inspected.

22:08

For the inspection,

22:11

the Right-to-Know Program inspection unit

22:14

we're following a total of 9,718 inspection.

22:21

during the 2021 fiscal year,

22:25

Out of this 469 facility were exempt from filing,

22:31

694 facility went out of business,

22:36

1,775 facility were closed and no access

22:43

and 65 facility were issued notice of violation

22:47

for noncompliance with the right-to-know law and regulation.

22:53

Anybody have a question?

22:58

Thank you.

23:02

- Thank you, Safaa.

23:04

So at this point,

23:06

I'm going to just try to bring things into perspective.

23:11

I know there are a lot of numbers that are being discussed

23:15

and you have so many thousands of this,

23:17

so many hundred of that, so many processed, et cetera.

23:21

Let me look at it as year over year.

23:23

That makes it a little easier because that's the only way

23:26

to gauge how COVID has impacted what we do here

23:32

in our Right-to-Know Program, how we monitor facilities,

23:36

how we conduct inspections.

23:38

If we look at the pre-COVID we're looking at about,

23:44

11,634 filings versus 11,175 for this year,

23:52

a difference of about 459, 460 if we round it off

23:57

approximately 4% less.

24:00

Naturally, that number does make sense

24:03

because as Safaa explained,

24:07

there has been reductions in facilities

24:09

and we all know that there are facilities

24:11

that have shut down, unfortunately, because of COVID.

24:15

So even though we do have a reduction,

24:19

the unit itself is still maintaining its mandated obligation

24:26

to inspect as well as reviewed the facilities,

24:30

to make sure that the documents are complete and accurate

24:34

and that the facilities, once they're inspected,

24:37

are actually containing and storing the materials

24:41

as they're supposed to have store

24:44

and contain them in their filing.

24:49

To give you an idea,

24:52

as we said, last year in March,

24:58

it was directed that the inspection staff for Right-to-Know

25:03

conduct technical review in lieu of the inspection function.

25:09

This continued until the New York State PAUSE

25:13

started to lift in June

25:17

and as was discussed, over 95% of the facilities

25:23

were actually reviewed.

25:27

In fact, the actual number for last year is 98.2%.

25:32

So that is the most accurate and up-to-date number.

25:37

This year, we focused our attention

25:42

on doing a lot of the inspections

25:45

to catch up on that gap that took place last year,

25:49

by doing more focusing on tech review.

25:52

Now that doesn't mean that when we focus on one thing

25:55

we neglect the other.

25:57

In fact, we've figured a way where we can balance both

26:01

and complete both in the most efficient manner.

26:05

For example, like I said, last year,

26:08

we started focusing on tech review

26:10

then we resumed inspection.

26:13

To give you an idea,

26:15

so far out of 11,175 filing facilities,

26:20

9,718 inspections have been conducted.

26:26

That's rounded up to 87% of the database.

26:30

So what having a majority of the inspections conducted,

26:34

we now actually pulled back on the inspector work

26:39

and focused on the technical review work.

26:42

So within the next six months,

26:44

similar to what was conducted last year,

26:47

we expect to complete all the reviews

26:50

that are still in the database to determine their accuracy.

26:56

So DEPs program retooled itself and redesigned

27:03

and it actually maintained a high level of efficiency

27:07

that I'm very proud to report to the committee

27:12

and at this meeting.

27:13

So I know Safaa presented a lot of numbers.

27:17

It takes a little time to wrap your mind around it

27:21

but what it comes down to is we are running very efficient

27:26

and we will continue that way

27:27

and that's all thanks to the personnel

27:30

that worked for the unit and all the support that we have

27:32

from our partners in this committee,

27:34

as well as the response community.

27:36

So I want to thank you on that behalf.

27:39

So I now change gears and talk about

27:43

hazardous materials response.

27:50

As was said in HSAB meeting,

27:53

the numbers for response requests were down.

27:56

In fact, they were down to the point of about 24% less

28:03

year over year because of COVID.

28:08

But that number started to go back up

28:12

as the City began its reopening phases.

28:16

So bottom line is from 24 or 25% different.

28:23

We closed the year as of this point through May,

28:28

because I do not have the complete numbers for June yet

28:31

at approximately 11%.

28:34

So we regained in so many months, we're talking March,

28:40

it's now June.

28:41

So in only several months, we went from 24% up to 11%.

28:47

And I'm expecting as the City resumes full operation,

28:52

that we will go back to our normal position of 3 to 400

28:57

requests for emergency responses per month.

29:01

So that is what the pattern is indicating.

29:04

So that's response.

29:06

We are going back to normal and the pattern

29:08

that was again indicated,

29:10

but the category still holds true

29:12

and it seems that pattern is not unique to any condition.

29:17

It is just how the responses play out year over year.

29:23

So I just want to also talk about response

29:26

and bring up something of interest

29:29

to the response community and our partners.

29:32

And this is something that is important

29:34

because it creates a bit of confusion on some occasion.

29:40

And that has do with

29:42

the concept of abandoned or orphaned material

29:47

versus material that belongs to a responsible party.

29:52

The law is clear that the City is responsible

29:56

for orphaned or abandoned material,

29:59

but if there's a responsible party from our end,

30:02

we usually try to have the responsible party under oversight

30:09

or our oversight in particular,

30:11

under a commissioner's order, dispose of material.

30:15

One thing that happens a lot,

30:16

and I'm bringing this to the attention

30:18

of the response agency units,

30:21

is that in the case of vehicle accidents,

30:24

that's one that's very critical.

30:29

Many a time there are fluid leaks from those vehicles

30:33

and those fluids are usually drained and put into drums

30:36

for disposal.

30:38

If you are the response agency there

30:40

and by the time you notify us,

30:42

if we don't get to the site before you

30:45

and there's a tow truck coming to take the vehicle,

30:48

please make sure that they take that drum of fluid with them

30:51

because that is the obligation

30:54

of the responsible party,

30:56

which is the vehicle owner and their insurance company.

30:59

Once it's abandoned, it becomes a complication

31:03

for us to issue an order to a responsible party

31:06

and at times when it doesn't work out,

31:09

the City becomes the responsible party.

31:11

So it's something to keep in mind,

31:13

something to address to your personnel and have them

31:18

disseminated amongst the ranks,

31:21

just keep it in the back of your mind.

31:24

So that's something I needed to talk about.

31:28

Now, I want to talk about noteworthy emergency responses,

31:34

special deployments

31:36

and to bring a shout out and a thank you

31:39

to all of the emergency partners,

31:41

especially on the response that I'm going to talk about now.

32:08

- Hey Harry. Just one question.

32:13

Do you anticipate pushback from toll operator

32:16

in regards to taking of the fuel

32:31

You are on mute Harry.

32:32

- Harry, I think you're muted.

32:35

- Oh, I'm sorry commissioner, you're right.

32:37

I'm sorry, chief. Commissioner I'm sorry.

32:40

In the event, there's pushback from the tow company.

32:44

I mean, legally they're obligated

32:45

to take everything that belongs with the vehicle,

32:48

the vehicle and any fluid.

32:50

If there's pushback, let us know.

32:54

We will call the--

32:55

let's assume they took the vehicle and left the fluid,

33:00

let us know who it was.

33:01

We will call the tow company back,

33:04

if not, we'll give an order to the responsible party

33:07

and they will have to contact their insurer

33:10

one way or another to dispose of the material.

33:12

So the City doesn't have to assume the liability

33:16

because it does happen.

33:17

Tow companies sometimes are difficult to deal with,

33:20

but for most of the time they know that

33:23

they take the vehicle,

33:24

they take the material and they bill the insurance company

33:27

for the disposal

33:29

and they bill it into their mark-up, whatever that may be.

33:34

But if there's anything,

33:36

Vinny 718-595-4646, we'll be there.

33:42

- Thank you.

33:44

- I'm just mentioning that because a lot of times

33:46

PD has scaled back the response.

33:49

So there's no injuries,

33:50

a lot of times you're not going to get PD.

33:52

So it's just going to be us maybe doing

33:56

a mitigation, a cleanup

33:57

and I'll get the word out that we need to be doing that.

33:59

No problem. Got it.

34:01

- Thank you.

34:02

Thank you. Thank you.

34:04

Going back to a noteworthy responses, I mean,

34:10

I really thought about this and I discussed it internally.

34:14

And this response, as I said,

34:16

merits a thank you to all of the partners that were,

34:21

and this particular response.

34:22

So I'm going to go into it.

34:25

Normally, a noteworthy response is something that

34:29

conventionally, a chemical spill,

34:31

a gas leak, an explosion or so, but in this case,

34:36

this noteworthy response had no hazardous materials

34:39

involved whatsoever.

34:42

Actually this response is a response in which the victims

34:47

could not speak for themselves

34:49

and where the on-site responders exemplified

34:53

the true caring nature and professionalism

34:56

they are known for.

34:59

This particular response that I'm talking about

35:01

spanned over a timeframe that encompassed two LEPC meetings.

35:08

It's first started on April 29th, 2020

35:11

and concluded on November 18th, 2020.

35:16

Although the physical response took one day,

35:20

the work that ensued following the response

35:22

continued for seven months.

35:25

I'm going to quote from the New York Times

35:27

and I'm pretty sure it's going to ring a bell

35:29

as I continue.

35:33

"This event was reported as a grizzly discovery,

35:38

capturing the tragedy and chaos of the pandemic

35:42

at its height in New York City.

35:45

Dozens of bodies were found decomposing in trucks

35:48

parked outside of Brooklyn Funeral Home,

35:53

supposedly because it had run out of space."

35:59

some of you may remember this event from the news,

36:01

but if not,

36:03

it was the Andrew T. Cleckley Funeral Home response

36:06

36:10

where DEP was notified at 1320 hours.

36:15

Everyone who responded that day conducted themselves

36:18

in a manner that demonstrated respect

36:21

for the entire community who were affected by the loss.

36:26

At this meeting,

36:27

I would like to formally acknowledge those responders

36:30

and this is in no direct order.

36:32

From the NYPD, FDNY, NYCEM

36:36

DOHMH, OCME, the Brooklyn DA's office,

36:41

DEP HAZMAT, DEP air resources

36:45

who responded that day and continue to support

36:48

the investigation that ensued afterward.

36:52

Seven months later on November 18, 2020,

36:56

New York State revoked the funeral home's operating license,

37:01

bringing closure to all those affected

37:03

by the practices of the Andrew T. Cleckley Funeral Home.

37:08

To my knowledge, there are lawsuits

37:10

that have been filed against the home by various parties

37:14

alleging failure to carry out their duties in a respectful

37:17

and lawful manner.

37:20

So again, I reiterate to all of you who were there

37:22

to all of your personnel who were there, thank you.

37:26

It is something to be noted, their professionalism,

37:28

dedication and caring is something that has to be noted

37:32

during that time of very difficult responses

37:37

and the difficulty of dealing with the community at large

37:40

with the virus rampant and illnesses rampant.

37:44

So thank you all.

37:47

Noteworthy in the sense that it was a difficult time,

37:50

which now leads me to a better time.

37:57

I know this seems funny, but for this year,

38:01

the noteworthy responses begin or details begin

38:06

with the opening games of the Yankees and the Mets.

38:10

I know no one was expecting things to open but they did.

38:14

Even though at the time was 20 or 25% capacity,

38:18

I know all of the response personnel at the branch

38:22

were very happy to see it begin.

38:24

So this turns the chapter of a difficult time

38:28

into new beginnings and a new time,

38:30

hopefully many better times to come.

38:33

So with that,

38:36

I now just give you my opinion and my knowledge

38:40

on what details would be in place

38:44

or would have been in place.

38:46

This month we usually have three details.

38:49

The Israeli Parade, the Puerto Rican Parade

38:53

and the Heritage Pride Parade.

38:56

I know the parades were not held,

38:57

some maybe were held virtually,

39:00

some will be held virtually

39:02

but July 4th, I know that's the next event,

39:07

I'm not sure I've heard conflicting remarks

39:11

that it may be virtual,

39:12

there may be some events,

39:13

I guess it's a little premature to say,

39:16

hopefully they will open up some events, we'll find out,

39:19

but I do know for sure that there are two other events

39:23

that will be held

39:25

and that will be the Big Apple Reopening Concert

39:29

at Central Park's Great Lawn on August 21st

39:32

and the Five Borough Bike Tour

39:34

the very next day on August 22nd.

39:37

And of course I expect the US Open in one form or another

39:43

to run from August 30th to September 7th.

39:46

So that's the knowledge I have to date

39:48

and if there's other information

39:51

from our support agency partners

39:57

that we can bring up,

39:58

it would be greatly appreciated if we can discuss it.

40:05

- Anyone have any feedback on special deployments upcoming?

40:13

- All the information Harry that John that I have is that

40:17

we anticipate that the UN General Assembly this year

40:21

will be a regular deployment.

40:25

The only pretty solid information that I have,

40:28

regular deployment for the UNGA.

40:31

- okay. That's good.

40:34

- Well, I guess we'll do it.

40:36

We'll do it day by day,

40:39

once we get all of our confirmations in.

40:42

- One other thing too,

40:43

is I have an internal meeting on Monday.

40:46

This is an FDNY internal meeting about July 4th

40:50

and apparently there's going to be five or six barges

40:54

deploying fireworks on the 4th of July.

40:58

- You know which river Vin?

41:01

- East River.

41:07

- A nice opening for us.

41:13

So if there are any questions on the things

41:17

that were discussed during the HSAB,

41:19

this is the time to bring them up.

41:30

If there are no questions and I thank you for that

41:32

and I go back to Commissioner Cosgrove

41:37

back to the LEPC.

41:40

- Thank you, Harry.

41:42

So as far as the LEPC is concerned,

41:44

is there anybody on the call that has any questions

41:48

regarding the LEPC?

41:56

Alright.

41:57

And I'll take that as a negative.

42:00

And Rob, would I turn it back to you for closure here?

42:06

- Commissioner, there's one question in the chat,

42:10

is just please summarize on today's meeting brief,

42:14

all the items the other agencies shall

42:16

refer to DEP and/or address on the site.

42:21

- Let me summarize today's meeting brief all the items,

42:24

the other agencies shall refer to DEP and/or address

42:28

on the site, Thanks.

42:31

- All the notes, I'm sorry, commissioner.

42:34

All the notes will be typed up, reviewed, approved

42:38

and then uploaded to New York City

42:40

Emergency Management's website.

42:42

So all the notes and everything discussed here today

42:46

will be found there.

42:50

- Thank you (crosstalk).

42:52

- You're welcome.

43:01

- Think that's all we have in the chat box, right?

43:05

- Yeah.

43:09

- Alright.

43:12

- I'd like to thank everyone for attending

43:14

this year's annual LEPC meeting.

43:18

Again, just to reiterate, this meeting was recorded

43:22

and that recording will be posted to

43:24

New York City Emergency Management's website,

43:27

along with the notes and minutes of this year's meeting.

43:31

So thank you again for attending.

43:35

Hopefully next year,

43:37

we'll be able to meet in person

43:39

and look forward to seeing everyone then.

43:43

So thank you very much.

43:44

And commissioner, it's a nice to have you aboard

43:47

and looking forward to working with you over the next year

43:50

in anticipation for the upcoming LEPC.

43:54

- Thank you, sir.

43:55

Thank you, Robert.

43:55

And thank you everybody for participating today.

43:57

It's been a pleasure. - Thank you.

44:00

- Have a good day everyone.

English

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